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NEW MOVE FOR A CEASE-FIRE

New Major Effort Planned By The Asian-Arab Bloc

COMMENT

The lull in the major clash of armies in Korea continues but ominous indeed are the portents. Both sides are reported to be building up for what may be the biggest and most decisive battle of the Korean war, and American headquarters are convinced that a Chinese assault is just around the corner.

If the worst fears are realised, if Peking commits its forces to a major encounter with the United Nations armies, then the Western Powers might have to face the prospect of a prolonged and costly stalemate which would be gravely against their interests.

Both President Truman and Mr Attlee have declared, as they were bound to declare, that they would not willingly withdraw their troops from Korea. Sooner or later, however, all Western statesmen must frankly face their dilemma. To withdraw troops now would indeed only give fresh heart and impetus to the Communist forces elsewhere in south-east Asia. Yet even in south-east Asia the forces opposed to Communism are hard pressed, and elsewhere in the world—whether in Europe or in the Middle East—the defence is calamitously deficient in both men and supplies.

While the fighting goes on in Korea there is still time for the coldest review of world strategy as a whole to ensure that the areas of vital importance are, first of all, recognised as such by the Western and other friendly powers and are then adequately covered by troops on the spot or by agreed plans for immediate help.

While the marshalled resources of the West are still perilously strained the Western Powers will be obliged to decide which areas are to be defended in strength. The unhappy truth is that they have not the means to resist every challenge. To conserve sufficient strength for the areas of vital importance is work for the military strategists and statesmen of the highest rank; and it is work without which the new provision for Western defence will falter and fail.

Resurrection Of Plan For General Peace Parleys

Lake Success, Dec. 27.

The Asian-Arab bloc is planning a new major effort in the United Nations to ease the Far East crisis, it was learned today.

Spurred to action by Communist China's rejection of the United Nations' cease-fire effort, 12 of the 13 Asian-Arab states that initiated that frustrated move held an emergency Christmas Eve session to consider another approach. Delegation sources said the 12 nations would meet again later this week.

It was believed the group was planning to press for General Assembly adoption of their temporarily-shelved proposal for a peace parley on broad Far Eastern issues.

This belief was heightened by the fact that the Philippines—13th sponsor of the cease-fire move—was not invited to the new series of urgent meetings.

The Philippines was the only one of the 13 that refused to sponsor the peace parley proposal, introduced at the same time as the cease-fire resolution but shelved because of United States' opposition.

The three-man cease-fire team met today, ostensibly to consider its final report to the Assembly's main Political Committee, which is due to convene again next week.

The meeting was held at the new offices of the Assembly President, Mr Nasrollah Entezam of Iran, in the United Nations' new glass and marble headquarters building in Manhattan.

Mr Entezam and Sir Benegal Rau of India were the regular Committee members present, Mr R. G. Riddell again attended in place of the Canadian Foreign Minister, Mr Lester Pearson.

The 12-nation proposal for a peace conference on a broad range of Far Eastern issues—such as Formosa and Chinese Communist membership in the United Nations—touches the heart of the problem of halting the Korean fighting.

Mr Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister of Communist China, said last Saturday, in announcing reaction to the cease-fire overtures, that Peking's price remained the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Korea, departure of the United States fleet from Formosa and admission of Peking to the United Nations.

The United States has steadfastly maintained that it will not even talk about other Far Eastern issues until a cease-fire is achieved. It was taken for granted that Peking would have to have a seat at a Far East peace parley.

The hope of the Asian-Arab bloc apparently was that adoption of the call for a Far Eastern parley would induce Peking to reconsider its refusal to deal with the cease-fire group. It was emphasised, however, that the promise of a conference was a long way from actual fulfilment of the demand by Peking for a cease-fire. And anyway, it was considered highly doubtful that the resolution could be passed in view of the United States' opposition.—United Press.

RUSSIANS HAVE 170 DIVISIONS

Paris, Dec. 27.

The French Government warned on Wednesday that Soviet Russia was armed with 170 divisions, totalling 4,500,000 men under arms, in addition to 952,000 in her satellite States in Europe.

The estimate was made by Defence Minister Jules Moch during a debate on the rearmament Bill which the Government is seeking to push through the reluctant National Assembly before Jan. 1.

M. Moch said these figures date back to the beginning of this year, and were the latest in the possession of the French Government. He said Russia also has 18 air armies, and her military budget for 1950 totalled about \$20,000,000,000, roughly ten times France's military expenditure for 1951.

M. Moch said: "If peace is threatened, it is not by the United States. France also intends to prepare herself against any aggression." M. Moch said France was anxious for the Big Four conference that will be convened in March.

M. Moch attacked the Communist attempt to block the Assembly debate on the Government's arms Bill.—United Press.

Committee Of 3 To Report

New York, Dec. 27.

The United Nations Korean Cease-Fire committee of three met today at the residence of Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, of India, to consider the Peking Government's reply to the United Nations appeal for a peaceful settlement in Korea.

Mr Nasrollah Entezam and Mr R. G. Riddell, of Canada, attended. Mr Riddell was representing Mr Lester Pearson, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, the third member of the Committee.

The Committee would begin to draft its final report to the Political Committee today.—Reuter.

Dean's Appeal For Return Of Relic

London, Dec. 27.

The Dean of Westminster broadcast an emotional appeal at the peak of British radio listening time on Wednesday night for the recovery of the Stone of Scone.

Dr Alan Don said he would "go to the ends of the earth" to recover the relic, and appealed to all listeners to "keep your eyes and ears open," and report any information to the police or to him.

A force of 70,837 men and women is working on the case. A Scotland Yard spokesman said orders had gone out to every police officer in England, Scotland and Wales to join in the search or combine it with his regular duties.

The Dean's unprecedented broadcast came just before the six o'clock news. He expressed horror that "sacriligious hands" had touched the stone, and said he knew King George VI was "greatly distressed" over the loss. But mixed with such pronouncements of solemnity was a widespread mood of hilarity among ordinary citizens that

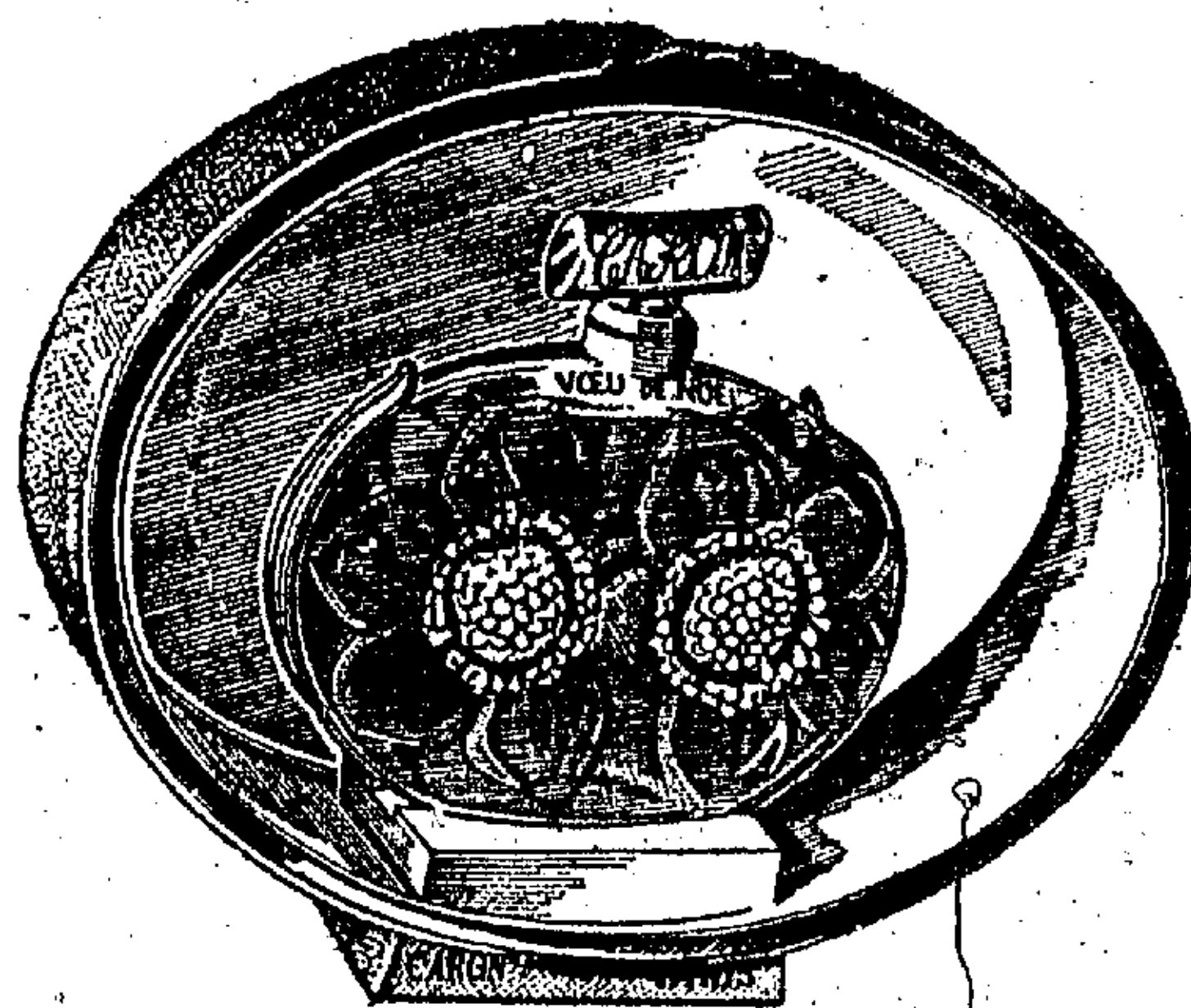
such a fabulous feat had been accomplished.

It provided relief from the customary diet of war news, and newspaper cartoonists pictured Nelson's statue, atop the column in Trafalgar Square, as being next on the list.—United Press.

BOLD EXPLOIT

New York, Dec. 27.

The Herald Tribune said editorially on Wednesday that the theft of the Stone of Scone "is a bold exploit which ranks as the sort of strong meat of drama and mystery on which the pens of Robert Louis Stevenson or Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would have gladly fed. That the thieves were able to make a getaway with a sizable slab of yellow sandstone is a reflection on British guardianship of its chunks of history, which Scotland Yard is working strenuously to rectify."—United Press.



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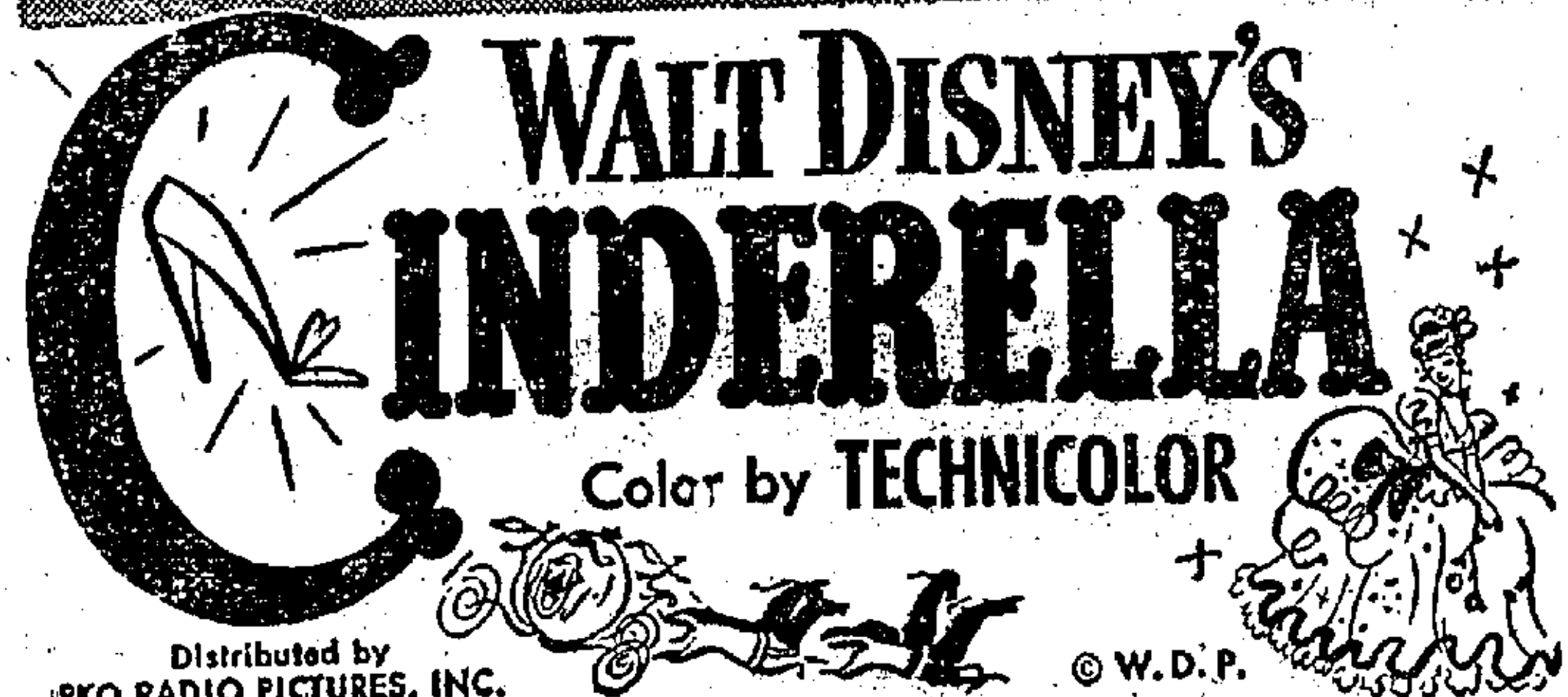
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CONCERTED OFFENSIVE OPENED BY VIETMINH NORTH OF HANOI

Hanoi, Dec. 27.

Vietnamese insurgent forces today launched a concerted attack on French outposts in the Phyouyen Phulo area about 50 miles north of Tonkin, the capital of Hanoi.

French troops, battling 25 miles farther south, recaptured Daphue, a Northern outpost taken by the Vietminh forces 24 hours earlier.

The French here are defending a 350-mile line in front of Hanoi and facing China.

Meanwhile in the North-East, a column of French troops, moving up to reinforce the fortress of Binhlieu, about 20 miles from the Chinese frontier, had met with no resistance from the insurgents.

The French military spokesman announced today that ammunition was parachuted yesterday to the beleaguered post, which has been under constant attack for three days.

He said that four or five Vietminh battalions had been concentrated in the triangle surrounding Binhlieu formed by Tienyen, Moncay and Dinhlap.

The French were maintaining operational reserves in the zone to face up to all Vietminh attacks against any French posts in this sector.

The French yesterday launched an attack between the rivers Claire and Dai northwest of Hanoi. French losses were reported to be severe while Vietminh losses could not be estimated.—Reuter.

LARGE LOSSES

Saigon, Dec. 27. French headquarters announced on Wednesday that large losses were inflicted on Communist Vietminh forces in severe fighting under way for the French defence perimeter north of Hanoi.

A French spokesman said the rebels captured a French post 25 miles north of Hanoi a few hours after the Communists on Tuesday launched their biggest campaign since they wrested from the French all but fragments of the positions along

the Indo-Chinese border with Communist China. However the French recaptured the position on Wednesday.

The rebel offensive coincided with a French drive into Communist-held country areas west of Saigon. The French jumped off on Tuesday from near the French stronghold of Sontay, about 25 miles northwest of Saigon, and engaged the Communists between the Claire and Dai rivers.

The spokesman said reports from the contested area indicated that the French inflicted heavy losses on the Reds, French troops sustained only wounds in the heavy fighting.

The new rebel drive threatened three French posts along the defence arc on the northern edge of the Red River delta. The spokesman said one of the posts was encircled for a while, but the Communists have been driven off after furious combat.

(United Press correspondent Sol Sanders reported that what may have been resistance to an attempt to crack the rebel lines, failed early on Wednesday morning when the French threw mobile reinforcements into the line 25 miles directly north of Hanoi).—United Press.

Jap Gets US Post

New York, Dec. 27.

Dr. Hideo Yukawa, the Japanese scientist who won the 1949 Nobel Prize in Physics, has decided to remain in this country and has been appointed a full-time Professor of Physics at Columbia University.—Reuter.

Border Shooting In Yugoslavia

Belgrade, Dec. 27.

Yugoslav frontier guards today shot and killed a "person in a Rumanian uniform" 600 yards inside Yugoslavia's frontier with Rumania near the village of Radojevo. It was officially announced here by the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry.

It said that it had cabled its Embassy in Bucharest to lodge a protest to Rumania over the incident.—Reuter.

Ethel Roosevelt Married

Wilmington, Delaware, Dec. 27. Ethel Dupont Roosevelt, former wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Benjamin Warren, an attorney, were married today.

Ethel Roosevelt and the late President's son were divorced in Nevada on May 21, 1949, after 12 years of marriage. They have two sons, Franklin D. Roosevelt, 11, and Christopher, 8. Warren, 38, was divorced from the former Ritchey Farrell, of Nashville, Tennessee, in Nevada last September. He is a member of a Detroit law firm.—United Press.

TEST MATCH POST-MORTEM

Australian Regret Over England's Gallant Failure

Prospects In The Sydney Match

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Melbourne, Dec. 28.

Our England cricketers who yesterday lost by only 28 runs one of the finest and most excitingly fluctuating Test matches ever played find on opening their newspapers this morning that amid all the post-mortem verdict of all former Test practitioners and scribes, the Press reflects the genuine regret of the public that England failed in this "so near but yet so far bid."

But brushing aside all their own self-criticisms, recriminations, regrets and multifarious themes mulled over at fraternal party last night with Lindsay Hassett and his Australians, they have already been projecting themselves a week ahead to the Third Test match starting at Sydney on Friday week.

Australian Test selectors have already announced that their twelve brought to Melbourne for this match remains unchanged. That, in itself, is perhaps the most tangible recognition of the way this fighting English side, despite several un concealable deficiencies, has cut down Australia's team in two breathlessly close matches from a side estimated as a collection of giants from a superior planet to something less than life-size.

Amid admiration for the English side which is inextricably tangled with any sports crowd's human sympathy for a game outsider who very nearly brought off a long odds shot, there is a growing Australian feeling that their batting has deteriorated seriously and there is a general outcry for other batsmen like Loxton to go the same way as Moroney and make way for younger newcomers. This sign of shattered complacency is flattering even if it is a somewhat back-handed compliment. But the Australian selectors in resisting it and again declining to risk any experimentation have made an even higher estimation of Brown's fighting side.

At the same time the Australians, two up with three to play, can afford conservatively not to take risks.

CHANCES NEEDED

England, on the contrary, will have to make a couple of obvious changes in a side which could not in the final crisis yesterday consolidate three of the best successive day's work ever accomplished by an English side in this country.

First Compton, whose knee ironically was sound enough yesterday for him to have played when he had to stand moodily watching as powerlessly as any of the elderly non-combatant admirers who attached themselves to him, will have to return to the side without his having to risk the strain of a four-day lesser match starting against New South Wales on the same Sydney ground on Saturday.

Next, young Brian Close will have to go. This young man is as full of natural cricket as the first fine careless rapture of his introductory 1948 season indicated. But experience of this tour have not yet repaired the omissions caused by his absence in the Army last year. This match emphasised that he at present is still lacking in maturity mentally and in technique for Test cricket. We lack the all-rounder so he will have to be replaced by a bowler like Warr or Hollies or if we plump for batting a potential run-maker like David Sheppard.

And Gilbert Parryhouse, who came in merely on surffiance through the back door merely because Compton was crooked, will now have to be given the opportunity so far strangely denied him. Parryhouse has the smattering of luck yesterday and was shaky at the start in-

deed who was not, amid those pulsating hours—but he played the new ball from Miller and Lindwall much better than any after Hutton's crucial dismissal.

A RISKY MOVE

It was that new ball that proved fatal to England's dwindling chances. Hassett, who afterwards admitted handsomely how close his side had been to defeat, took a grave risk in deciding to use the new ball on a spinner's wicket on which Iverson seemed to have every batsman except Hutton mesmerised. But the move came off even though Parkhouse attacked Miller into a hasty removal at a time when the Australians had very few runs to spare.

Lindwall bowled a couple of superb inswingers which kept low to beat first Brown and then Evans, the only two aggressive batsmen who might have saved the day. Lindwall is beginning to drop his arm badly nowadays but it was not as bad as our over-defensive play made out.

We came mighty close to winning and with Compton in the side we should probably have done so. But the plain fact is that with Washbrook already out of the way we did not have a competent batting technician to take advantage of the position when the Australians were closer to the shadow of defeat than they will probably ever be.

On this sort of wicket, Iverson, the bogeyman, and that gangling, bowling genius, Bill Johnston, will always be dangers.

But while we lack any batsman, besides Hutton, to attempt more than keeping the balls off the stump, they will be inseparable. And now, after being edged out of the honours in two matches on turning wickets that proved the Australian batsmen to be very undistinguished stroke makers by Hutton standards, we fly to Sydney tomorrow to meet on their own terms—on a straight forward wicket on which they can be so competently merciless.

I fear opportunity will not knock gain. Battling Freddie Brown disagrees. How we hope, he will be right.

War Declared On Wolves

Washington, Dec. 27.

Arctic wolves have helped to destroy in the last 10 years all but an estimated 50,000 of Alaska's former great herd of some 550,000 reindeer, according to the National Geographic Society.

In an effort to save the herds, on which the people depend for food and transport, the United States Government has declared war on the wolves.

Planes are being used to spot wolf packs and machine-gun them from the air.—Reuter.

Wonder Drugs Decried

London, Dec. 27.

Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, said tonight that he did not suppose there would ever be "any one drug to kill all the microbes inside the body without killing the body as well."

Deploing widespread reports of "wonder drugs" which gave people the impression that a wonder drug had been discovered to kill all microbes, Sir Alexander told a lecture audience: "That is quite wrong. We have got no such thing."—Reuter.

TORQUAY TALKS ATTACKED

Washington, Dec. 27.

Senator George Malone (Republican, Nevada) said last night that the International Trade Conference, now going on in Torquay, will complete the plans for wrecking the American economic system.

In a statement he said: "Americans are fighting an economic war as well as a military war and the State Department is wrecking the crew on both fronts."

Senator Malone called on the next United States Congress, the 82nd, convening on Jan. 3 to let the 1934 Trade Agreement Act die next June 30.

He said that the Administration had been using this Act to make tariff concessions which, he said, had badly hurt many American industries.

Senator Malone, a critic of the Administration's foreign aid and trade policies, has long advocated the "flexible import fee" principle for the United States in dealing with other nations.

Such a system would take into account any differences in living standards in setting tariffs on goods entering the United States.—Reuter.

Best Movie Picked By Critics

New York, Dec. 27.

New York Film critics today voted "All About Eve" the best American movie of 1950 and cited Bette Davis and Joseph Mankiewicz as the best actress and best director respectively for their work on this 20th Century Fox picture.

Gregory Peck was voted best actor for his work in "Twelve O'Clock High."

"Ways of Love" was voted the best foreign film.

Ranked behind "All About Eve" were "Sunset Boulevard," "Asphalt Jungle" and "Devil's Doorway." The winner was chosen on the first ballot.

John Huston was runner-up to Mankiewicz for his direction of "Asphalt Jungle." Judy Holliday of "Born Yesterday" was second to Miss Davis and Jose Ferrer was runner-up to Peck for his work in "Cyrano de Bergerac."—Unibed Press.

Spain Pleased

Madrid, Dec. 27.

Satisfaction was expressed here at the appointment of Mr. Stanton Griffis as the United States' new Ambassador to Spain.

The American Embassy here said it expected that Mr. Griffis would arrive in Madrid after the New Year.—Reuter.



Laddie, an Alsatian police dog, is shown thrilling a group of youngsters with this daring leap through a flaming hoop during a demonstration of police dogs at Fallowfield, Manchester. Long periods of training and great courage combine to make this canine feat possible.

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WORST U.S. COLD WAVE THIS YEAR

New York, Dec. 27.
The United States shivered on Wednesday in the midst of the worst cold wave of 1950, and incomplete reports said there were 14 deaths in the last 24 hours as a result of frostbite, exposure and exertion in removing snow.

New York City which gathered 2.5 inches of snow during the 13-hour storm on Tuesday, was digging itself out. Chicago was under nine inches of snow, and trains between Chicago and New York were running six hours behind schedule.

In New York the mercury was down 9.6 degrees in the morning. Cleaning New York's streets of snow and slush was somewhat late on Tuesday as 2,000 Sanitation Department employees were working overtime in the gathering Christmas storm.—United Press.

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Japan And America “Need One Another” Says Eichelberger

Washington, Dec. 27.

Lieutenant-General Robert Eichelberger said today that Japan and the United States “need one another” and must stand firmly together if there is to be peace in Asia and security against Communist domination.

The former Commander of the Eighth Army said the United States “has a great responsibility for Japan's welfare and security” and must take every possible step to inspire the country against the designs of Moscow.

In a special interview, the vigorous soldier who conducted epic campaigns of the Pacific and headed the occupation army in Japan, said he had two New Year's wishes for Japan.

Gen. Eichelberger hoped that the coming year will see a conclusion of the Japanese peace treaty, and that Japan will be able to defend herself.

He declared, “Never in history has my country or Japan been in as great danger as now.”

Noting that Japan is “shoved right up against Russia,” Gen. Eichelberger said that despite this, Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida has made it plain that he intends to side with the Democracies. He said, “Never in the history of nations has a conquering army been received with such total co-operation. Never in history has an occupying army with its own funds brought food to the conquered.”

Declaring that “Japan is a great industrial prize of the Far East,” Gen. Eichelberger said it was of utmost importance for the United States to prevent any unfriendly power from taking control of the country. He said, “In Japan we have a great industrial potential” and a reservoir of goodwill “founded upon mutual respect.”

Gen. Eichelberger made it clear that if the deterioration of the world situation made it necessary he would be ready at a moment's notice to go back on active service for whatever assignment might be offered. He said he has been trying in his talks throughout the country to awaken the American people to the “tremendous importance” of Japan in the present world picture.—United Press.

US Official On German Visit

Frankfurt, Dec. 27.
Mr Edward W. Barrett, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, arrived at the Rhine Main Airport near here today for a brief stay in West Germany. He was accompanied by Mr Geoffrey Lewis, Deputy Director of the State Department's Bureau of German Affairs. The two officials will visit Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich.—Reuter.

Rhee Accused Of Conspiracy With US To Start Korea War

Tokyo, Dec. 27.

The Chinese Communist radio said today that the North Korean Government has published a 250-page book which “proves” that the South Korean President, Mr Syngman Rhee, conspired with the United States to start the Korean war.

The Peking broadcast said the book contains 29 documents which it said were taken from South Korean government archives and includes an American military map showing the proposed plan of attack. The book was published by the North Korean authorities under the title of “Instigators of the Civil War in Korea.”

The broadcast said the book contains a letter from John Foster Dulles, Republican advisor to President Truman, to President Rhee written five days before the outbreak of the war, in which Mr Dulles said, “I attach great importance to the decisive role which your country can play in a great drama that is forthcoming.”

The book also quoted an alleged letter from Mr Rhee to an American college pro-

fessor in which President Rhee allegedly stated: “Now is the most psychological moment when we should take an aggressive step. We will drive some of Kim Il-sung's men to the mountain region where we will gradually starve them out.”

Peking radio said the book also contained a photostatic copy of Article 7 of the Korean-United States treaty of alliance which stipulated “when Syngman Rhee carries his aggressive war into Manchuria” the United States will assist him to bring war to a “victorious end.”—United Press.

DULLES TO REPLY TO MR HOOVER

Washington, Dec. 27.

John Foster Dulles, Republican advisor to the State Department, will make a nationwide broadcast on Friday night replying to ex-President Herbert Hoover's Western Hemisphere defence proposals, the State Department announced on Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Lincoln White said Mr Dulles will describe how war could be avoided “through sound policies of collective security which will not involve our retreat into the area of defence of our own continent.”

Mr White said Mr Dulles will not mention Mr Hoover by name.

The State Department, however, in giving Mr Dulles' speech a build-up as part of the debate on foreign policies.

Mr Dulles will speak at a dinner given by the American Association for the United Nations, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

Mr White pointed out at a news conference that Mr Dulles had been advisor to four secretaries of state and helped develop the policies which are reflected in the creation of the United Nations, the European Recovery Programme, the North Atlantic treaty and the Military assistance programme.—United Press.

Development Of Atom Weapons

Washington, Dec. 27.

General J. Lawton Collins, the United States Army Chief of Staff, said in an article today that the American war experience in Korea must not deter the United States from developing the use of atomic weapons by Army troops.

Writing for Coronet magazine, he described progress in developing these weapons as encouraging.

The Korean war, General Collins said, was a reversion to the old-style fighting—more comparable to that of the U.S. Indian frontier days than to a modern war and could not be seen as a preview of future warfare.—Reuter.

HUGE U.S. BUDGET

Washington, Dec. 27.

President Truman's annual message on the State of the Union is expected to be followed by a budget involving total Government expenditure of some \$75,000,000,000 for the year beginning July 1, 1951.

This contrasts with the budget he presented last January calling for an expenditure of some \$43,000,000,000, predicting a decline in foreign aid expenditures and announcing a reduction in national defence.—Reuter.

NOTICE TO CHILDREN

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STATUS OF WEST NEW GUINEA

Dutch And Indonesia Fail To Reach Agreement

Not Even On Text Of Communique

The Hague, Dec. 27.

The Dutch and Indonesian delegations have definitely failed to reach an agreement on the future political status of Western New Guinea, it was announced this evening at the close of their final session at The Hague.

The delegations could not apparently even agree on the text of a final communique for at the end of the session each delegation issued its statement.

Dr Mohammed Roem, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said, as he hurriedly left the conference room: "We could not find a solution as there was complete disagreement."

Statements made by both sides today during the final meeting were later published.

The Indonesian delegation's statement reviewed its Government's general policy on the future status of the territory and its efforts to reach a solution of the problem.

It said: "As, in our view, December 27 had to be the last day of any conference to determine the status, we wish to state again (1) that the Republic of Indonesia maintains its claim to Western New Guinea, on the grounds that it is part of the territory of Indonesia and (2) that the status quo in Western New Guinea will continue as from today but without the approval of the Indonesian Republic."

The statement said that the Indonesians had started the conference with the hope that by December 27 there could be a joint Dutch-Indonesian declaration to the effect that both parties had agreed that sovereignty over Western New Guinea should be transferred by Holland to Indonesia and that the actual transfer should take place "in the middle of 1951" and that details of the transfer be fixed in the meantime by another conference with special attention to the protection of Dutch interests.

The Dutch, however, rejected this.

Referring to the Dutch proposal for the delegation of sovereignty to the Netherlands-Indonesian Union, the Indonesian statement said that they definitely rejected this plan as it was similar to the one put forward earlier in the year and then turned down.

The Indonesians went on: "We cannot associate ourselves with Holland in a colonial relationship as the relation between Holland and West New Guinea is essentially quite different from that between Indonesia and New Guinea."

They added that they could not accept "continued outside administration in an area we feel to be part of our Fatherland."

DECIDE OWN FUTURE

The Dutch statement read at today's talks first mentioned the plan by which, "in due course", the population of Dutch New Guinea would decide their own future through a "plebiscite held under the joint supervision of Indonesia and Holland."

This would be held as soon as the people were politically capable of making their choice.

It was also proposed to form a New Guinea Council in which Holland and Indonesia would have equal representation with Holland retaining sovereignty until the right of self-determination could be exercised.

The Council would decide the administrative policy of the area and receive annual reports from the Dutch administrators.

This plan was rejected by the Indonesian delegation after its leader, Dr Roem, had returned from Djakarta last Friday.

The Dutch Government then tried to bridge the differences by proposing to delegate sovereignty over the territory to the Netherlands-Indonesian Union while retaining Dutch administration.

In this way "joint action between Holland and Indonesia on New Guinea could be achieved and the problem taken out of the sphere of conflict into the sphere of co-operation."

This plan was also rejected by the Indonesians, it said.

The statement then declared that as the future status of the area had not been determined by negotiation within the time set at the round-table conference last year, "Netherlands sovereignty and the status quo are maintained and the problem has not been solved."

The statement concluded with the suggestion that the negotiations might be continued with the assistance of the United Nations Commission for Indonesia or some other body which could help the parties to reach a solution.

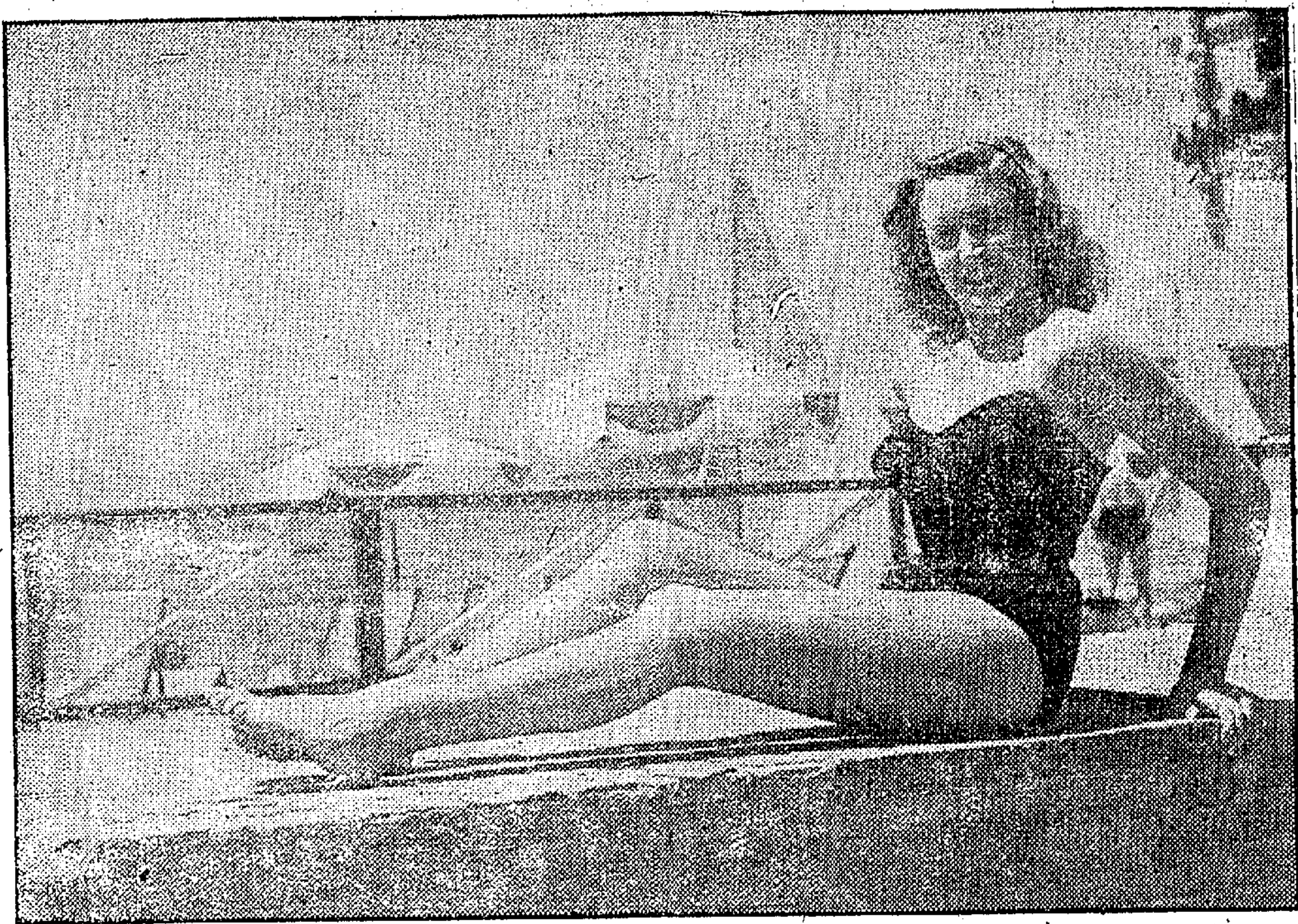
It was understood from a usually reliable source that India would join any other powers in making an effort to prevent a rupture in Dutch-Indonesian relations.

The talks have been going on for three weeks. Dr Roem said after today's talks: "The situation is very serious."

He added: "We could not find a solution as there was complete disagreement." Asked how he felt, he replied: "I am not happy."

Dr Roem said that his delegation would return to Indonesia on Friday.

The Dutch Coalition Government is already facing opposition from at least one of its strong component parties, the Socialists. If the Dutch



On top of the wall that runs along the sea-front at Juan-les-Pins, in the South of France, sits Bessie Wery, taking in a little sunshine. Mademoiselle Wery's radiance is permanently in bloom at Juan, which is her home. And Wery nice, too!

Childless Women

Rochdale, Dec. 27.

Some childless women are so anxious to have a baby that the very anxiety stops them from having one, Dr Helen Barlow said here.

"Once they have adopted a child, the anxiety is removed and nature takes its course," she added.—*Reuter*.

yielded to the Indonesians, the Catholics and members of the two smaller parties would certainly have opposed it while a rupture with Indonesia may cause the Socialists to withdraw from the Government.—*Reuter*.

DESPERATE EFFORTS

The Hague, Dec. 27.

With only a few hours remaining before the "deadline" for the settlement of the future of Dutch New Guinea by negotiation, desperate efforts were being made here today to find a way out of the deadlock.

Sir Philip Nichols, the British Ambassador, called this afternoon at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and there were secret and frank discussions during the morning between the chief Indonesian and Dutch delegates.

Britain has so far remained neutral in the dispute, but it was known here that Sir Philip effort should be made to prevent Nichols made it clear that every the New Guinea problem becoming another storm centre in Asia.

The Australian Embassy worked throughout the whole holiday period suggesting that Canberra was getting anxious and needed detailed reports from the Australian Ambassador, Mr A. Stirling.—*Reuter*.

Most Versatile Big Jet Fighter Made Since War

Ottawa, Dec. 27.

Canada's Defence Department is beginning to think its big jet fighter, the Canuck, is shaping up as possibly the most versatile combat plane developed since the Second World War.

Designed as a long range, all-weather interceptor fighter, the Canuck is an unusually powerful two-seater plane built to roam across the Northern Wilderness.

Now, defence officials say, tests are showing its qualifications for these other potential roles:

- 1.—Fleet Air Arm work on board aircraft carriers.
- 2.—Tactical support for ground forces.
- 3.—Long-range reconnaissance.
- 4.—Bombing.

That prospective range of versatility, reminiscent of the Second World War's Mosquito, has already spread its fame well beyond Canada's borders. It will possibly be one of the country's major contributions to the Atlantic Pact.

Still not mated with its own Canadian-designed engine, the Orenda, and seldom if ever turned really loose, it has been officially reported as making 638 miles an hour—and to be capable of better than that.

CARRIER PLANE

Officials said that the United States and a number of European countries were interested in it but a variety of

complications, including dollar shortages, had so far prevented any arrangements to send it abroad.

There are still only two prototypes of the planes in existence and a lot of work remains to be done by the A.V. Roe plant at Malton, Ontario, before it swings into production on big orders for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

At Montreal, it displayed ability to travel fast as well as unusually slow, to manoeuvre, to climb and, above all, to get up into the air with remarkable swiftness.

It is this short take-off which may in time make it a carrier plane. Its ability to get down to speeds of about 150 miles an hour raises tactical support possibilities, while it is also big enough to take a considerable bomb load.—*Reuter*.

Tokyo Blood Donors

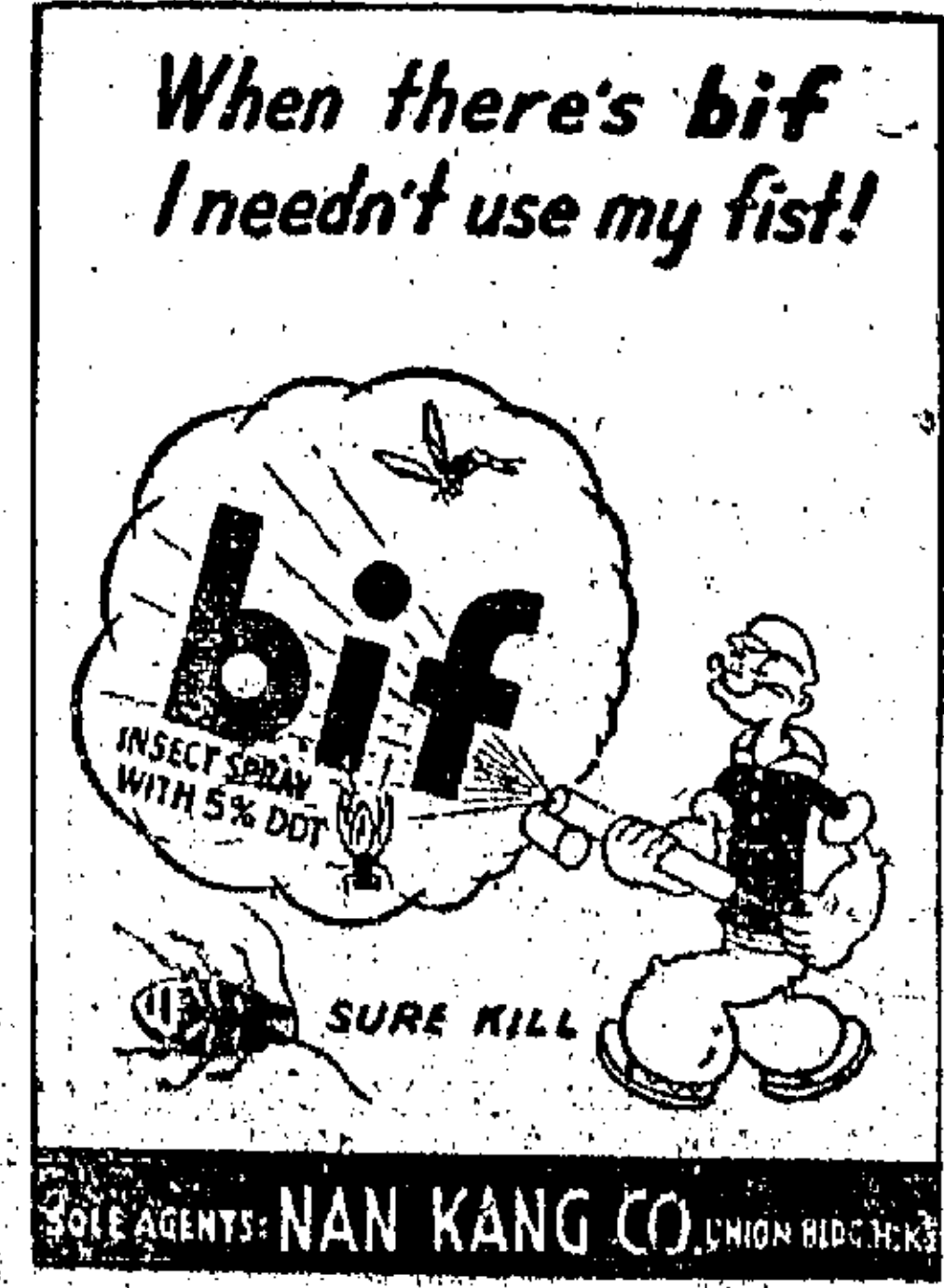
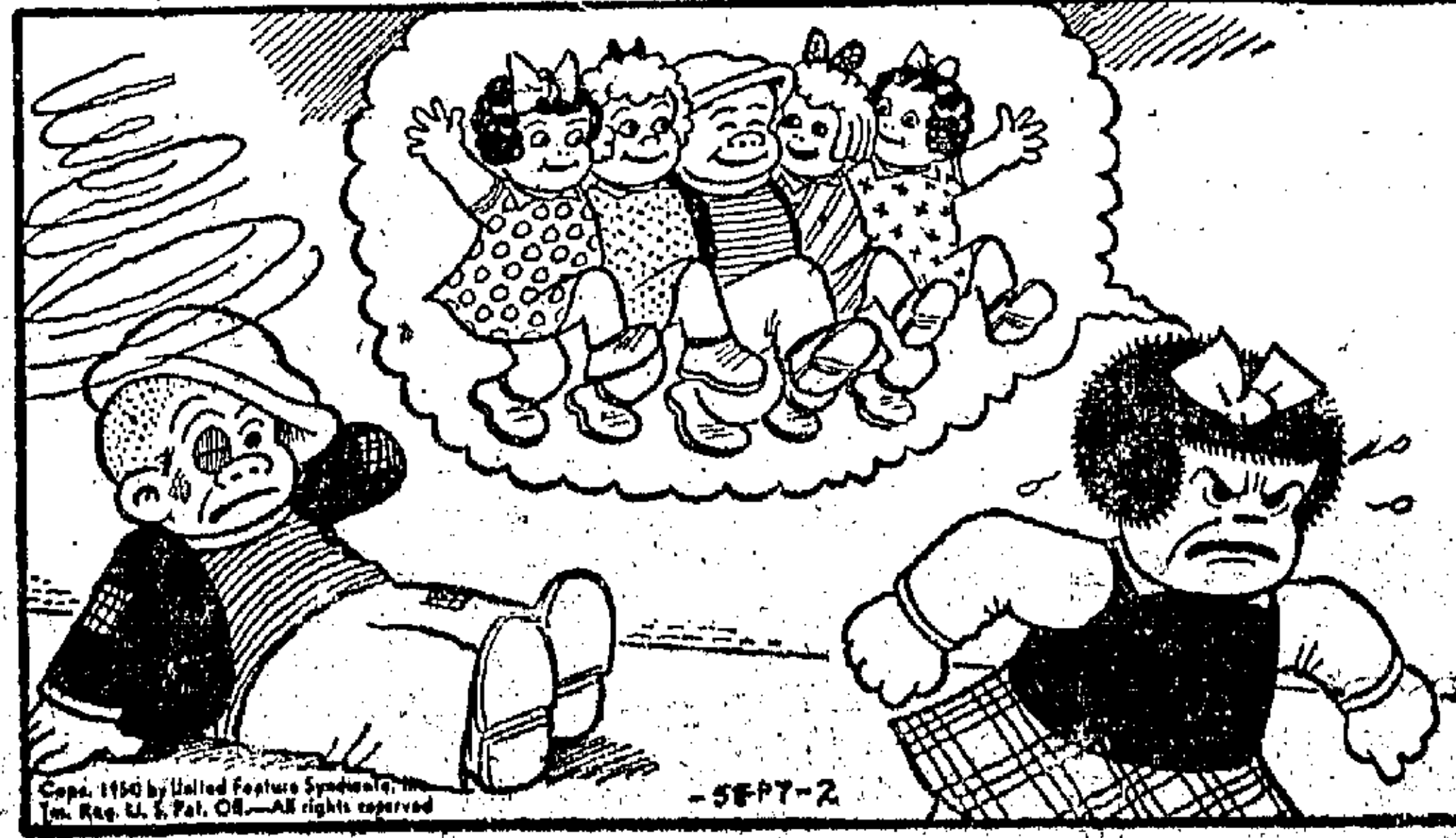
Tokyo, Dec. 27.

From early July to mid-December, more than 10,000 donors visited Tokyo's American Red Cross Blood Bank and donated blood, according to General MacArthur's Public Information Office here.—*Reuter*.

NANCY

Dream Goat

By Ernie Bushmiller



BRITAIN'S OUT-OF-DATE SOCCER IS LOSING GROUND

Says IVAN SHARPE

"What a state you get in!" said the waiter at Glasgow, attending the Austrian footballers during the breakfast-hour rush. "They can't speak the language."

You think one is starting, and he's finishing. You think one is finishing, and he's starting. What a state you get in!

It's a bit like that in football. Pozzo, the Italian team-maker, said recently that British tactics (club and country) are always so much alike that foreign teams know what to expect, whereas British teams don't know what to expect from the varied and newer methods of overseas sides. What a state they get in.

And what a state were Scotland in when the twenty-sixth international team of foreign footballers came to Britain since Continental play really became something, took away our unbeaten record by winning at Hampden Park. Memorable milestone.

As the Austrians first set the standard on the Continent, and first revealed this standard in Britain, it is fitting that they should be the country to get the halo. They certainly looked the part.

I said the other day that the footballer of the future will be a lissom, streamlined fellow bordering on 6ft.—something like Milburn of Newcastle and Bennett of the Spurs. When the Austrians lined up with the Scottish team at Hampden, half-a-dozen of them were seen to be built that way, whereas the home line was a mixture of tall (Young) and tiny (Collins).

The Viennese outside-right, Melchior—£30,000 class—is 6ft. and 12st. of streamlined speed and muscle. In full flight he looks like a European Jesse Owens.

WHAT POISE!

These foreign footballers, however, are not cumbersome. Alan Morton, wonder wing-man of Scotland and the Rangers, said to me afterwards: "What poise! What beautiful trapping and passing! We are not producing enough class players. I wish I could have seen them on a normal pitch." The ground, you see, was frozen.

The Austrians were superior to the Yugoslavs, who drew with England in London. They were better together, more powerful and artistic. Their only failings were blatant handling to intercept passes, and the usual Continental habit of impeding opponents.

As to the first, they say: "This was a surprise. Our players do not handle the ball like this as a rule. It must have been the special occasion, the excitement."

As to the second, the Austrians offended: less than the Yugoslavs. I'm afraid it's a Continental custom.

But all the obstruction wasn't on one side. How about the Scottish forward who, at corner-kicks, stood on the goal-line to hamper the goalkeeper?

Famous referees of my acquaintance call this unfair, and warn the attacker that he will be penalised immediately the man taking the corner kicks the ball. They call it sharp practice. So do I.

It makes for jostling and temper, and should be barred by the law-makers once and for all.

NO ALIBI

There is no alibi for British football this time. The frozen pitch? Frost is a leveller. It is a greater handicap to the higher-class team, and that wasn't Scotland.

Food? Don't mention it. Surely Austria has suffered from the wars as much as any country in the world. In Vienna, there are still four zones. The national football stadium, for instance, is in the Russian zone.

Walter Nausch, team-manager and sole selector, told me: "I am just a pupil of Hugo Meisl, the man who 'made' Austrian football. We hope that next year this team may be as good as the team of 1932 that Hugo built."

"Meisl, the Herbert Chapman of Continental football, always said to me: 'The British are the masters. When you go there study, study study.'"

"So I studied your football in Britain in 1932 and 1933, and now we blend our game with yours. Our passing is short—

short—long, or long—short—short. Our passing is always controlled.

"The lesson I shall take back this time is something I learned in the Arsenal versus Blackpool match. I shall tell our school-boys: 'You cannot be a good footballer without being in very good physical condition. Get fit. Live a life that keeps you fit.'"

This first defeat of Scotland in Scotland, following so closely on England's first failure to win in England has important lessons.

All these foreign teams now have a better style than ours. More studious. Less speculative. It is higher-class play, say what you will.

There is no doubt whatever that we have fallen behind in scientific football. And when you run through the 1950 results you will see that our methods are not only less thoughtful but are not now match-winning methods.

CHECK THE ROT

In order to check the rot, we have to overhaul our methods and come up to date. I need a book, almost, to explore these matters, but there are two important phases.

Our League programme, plus an average of three or four Cup-ties, provides too much wear and tear and tension. There is no time for the finer points. A smaller League programme, then, is the first need.

Austria's clubs play 24 League matches a year and no Cup-ties. They play fifty matches a season, but half of them are friendlies, giving scope for the development of the finer points, and matches abroad to raise funds.

And, by the way, although they are not professionals, they are openly-paid amateurs. There is no pretence about it. They do not adopt professionalism because they cannot afford the additional state taxes it involves. As it is, their entertainment tax is as high as 50 per cent. No; we are not the only hard-hit country in the world.

EXHUMATION

And the other lesson of this world-football milestone is that the attacking centre-half is not dead.

In Britain, strictly speaking, he is dead and buried, or so we all thought. The Austrians have carried out an exhumation; they have achieved a revelation. I hope it's a revolution.

Wonder of wonders, they lined up with three half-backs, as against Scotland's three backs. Wonder of wonders, they retained this formation even when Scotland hammered away at their goal throughout the second half.

They have shown that the attacking centre-half is still a

Joint Team Managers For Crystal Palace

London.

Mr David Harris, the chairman of Crystal Palace Football Club, has announced that Messrs Fred Dawes and Charles Slade will carry on as joint team managers in succession to Mr Ronnie Rooke, who has resigned.

Mr Dawes, who has been with Crystal Palace for 17 years, was assistant manager to Mr Rooke. Mr Slade, former Huddersfield Town and Middlesbrough player, was the Palace's chief scout.—Reuter.

HOME SOCCER

London, Dec. 27.

Norwich City drew 1-1 with Brighton and Hove in a Third Division. Southern Section football match today.—Reuter.

paying proposition under the existing off-side law. This, after every British centre-half had gone "stopper," so that there isn't an attacking pivot in all the land.

Why is that? Because our competitions are too tense, and results are too important—points are too precious. Because we have become the Country of Safety First.

We won't take a chance in the interests of better football. Our football has lost the spirit of adventure.

Nothing venture, nothing win. We are losing ground. We are being beaten by the foreigner. I am very sorry to have to announce that we are definitely out-of-date.

TIP FOR FA

Then there is publicity. While I was in Glasgow I attended a meeting of the Scottish Football Association because, there, the meetings of the Council are open to the Press.

Public examination of football problems is very often a good thing. The public pays the money and generally speaking, is entitled to know what is going on.

So I suggest that England follows this Scottish system.

The newspapermen are given a closer and better understanding of the Council's workings; of the real reasons behind this or that decision; of the attitude of east and west or north and south. Press and public are given the strength of things and, incidentally, get a truer picture of the minds and merits of the legislators.

The FA have nothing to hide, and could open their doors, like Scotland. Quite naturally, they prefer accuracy in comment. This is one way to get it.

All Set For A Soccer Festival

Plans are going ahead by sportsmen for next year's Festival of Britain games at the height of which there will be a programme of soccer games equal in size almost to the English League programme.

This goes on for nearly a fortnight with English League sides opposed by many continental and other visiting teams which are coming to Britain for the Festival programme.

Football clubs have been asked by the Football Association to consider other local activities when arranging kick-off times for these games as they have all been arranged for May after the English season ends and, therefore, take place when cricket and other summer sports are being played.—Reuter.

Rugger Results

London, Dec. 27.

The following were the results of RUGBY UNION games played today:

Bristol 26, Old Merchant Taylors 6.
Cardiff 24, Watsonsians 0.
Gloucester 8, Universities Athletic Union 6.
Leicester 13, Barbarians 13.
Northampton 17, Birmingham 3.
Swansea 32, London Welsh 3.—Reuter.

FULHAM v. MANCHESTER U.



Allen (Manchester United goalkeeper) saves from Jazzard (Fulham outside-left), watched by McNulty (Manchester United right-back).

The Second Test

A County Side Would Have Been More Confident

Melbourne, Dec. 27.

England became two down in the series of five cricket Test matches when Australia won the second game by 28 runs today.

To those who have watched the fluctuations of fortune in the first two Tests, such a position scarcely can be believed.

England so easily might, indeed should, be two games in front but whereas they could complain that luck was against them in the First Test at Brisbane no such excuse could be advanced at Melbourne except that they were without Denis Compton.

In recent years England teams have caused many disappointments. But none, not even the last day at Leeds in 1948, was so great as today, when England failed by 29 runs to score the 179 runs needed to inflict upon Australia her first defeat in the last 24 Test matches. They were out for 150 runs.

OVERAWED

Batsmen allowed the importance of the occasion to overawe them. They faced a first-class attack on a hard pitch from which the slow bowlers could make the ball turn and all the bowlers were occasionally able to trouble the batsmen with one which kept low.

Yet the conditions were such that a county side of reasonable strength would have been confident of its chances of getting 200 in the fourth innings by making strokes freely.

Only three England batsmen—Hutton, Parkhouse and Bedser—did so. The rest played into the hands of Australia by their timidity.

Hutton showed that the pitch and the bowling could be mastered in a classic display of two hours for 40 runs before he hit a slower ball from Bill Johnston to mid-wicket.

Alec Bedser, the No. 10 batsman, looked capable of obtaining a century if he could find a partner. He provided proof enough that runs could be scored without undue trouble.

Though play did not reach the standard expected in international cricket, the Melbourne Test will be remembered in Australia as a great game of cricket and one of the most exciting for many years.

Thanks to the bowling and fielding, the England team, which was thought not to have a chance, has already given Australia two severe shocks in the Tests.

The Third Test is due to begin at Sydney on January 5.—Reuter.

Ronnie Clayton To Fight Al Phillips

London, Dec. 27.

Ronnie Clayton, the British Empire Featherweight Boxing Champion, will fight Al Phillips, of Aldgate, at the Nottingham Ice Rink on January 29, according to his manager, George Dingley.

Dingley said that an application had been made to the British Boxing Board of Control for the fight to be recognised as a contest for Clayton's title. The Nottingham promoter, Mr Reg King, said that the fight would be over 15 rounds at nine stone, and he was confident that the Board would sanction it as a Championship contest.

Early this year Phillips beat Clayton in a nine-title fight. Three years ago Clayton took the Empire and European titles from Phillips and won the vacant British title. He has since lost the European title.—Reuter.

The Churchill Story: 10th Instalment SIDNEY STREET SIEGE

By Colin Frame

IF the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced a Budget with income tax graded from nine-pence to 1s 2d in the £, a small super-tax on incomes over £3,000 a year and ten per cent death duties, the cheers would hardly be louder than the roar of disapproval which greeted these proposals in 1909.

Lloyd George who introduced them, and Winston Churchill who was his chief backer, expected the outcry. Some of Churchill's tactical genius, according to biographer Ephesian, was at work in the Liberal Cabinet. They wanted a good cause to go before the voters. The Lloyd George-Churchill plan was to put up a Budget which the House of Lords was bound to turn down.

"People Or Lords"

THEN they could go to the country with the popular cry: "The people or the Lords?"

So it happened. And so it was that Churchill, grandson of a duke, played his part in ending the power of the Lords ever again effectively to defeat with Budget proposals.

He and Lloyd George were on the closest terms then. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer, worn and overworked, needed comfort and support, Churchill was at his side.

On one occasion after Lloyd George had broken down in the House Churchill took him aside and fed him on the favourite Lloyd George diet of bread-and-milk.

Friendship of a man who has always loved the best in food and drink could hardly have been more sternly tested.

Philip Guedalla reports one delightful Front Bench conversation between them:

Baby Diana Churchill had just been born.

"I suppose she's a pretty child," whispered Lloyd George.

"The prettiest you ever saw," said Churchill.

"Like her mother, I suppose," said Lloyd George.

"Oh no," replied Churchill very solemnly, "she's exactly like me."

This phase of Churchill's career might be remembered for his legislation to improve "the docks which have already been called obsolescent, will have to be allowed (if the legislation is not passed) to obsolesce into obsolescence."

At The Siege

HE introduced legislation, too, to lay down an eight-hour day and helped with Lloyd George's proposal for old age pensions.

But he is much better remembered as the Home Secretary who could not keep out of the firing line and went to the siege of Sidney Street.

He was in his bath when he heard that two of Peter the Painter's gang of international anarchists had taken armed refuge at 100, Sidney-street, Stepney.

This gang had already killed three policemen, and it did not take much argument to convince him that his place was, huddled in fur-collared coat and top hat, in the entrance to a warehouse where he could see all that was going on.

Curiosity

WHINING bullets in Cuba, in the North-West Frontier, in the Sudan and in South Africa had not cured his insatiable curiosity to match his destiny with death. Nor was it cured 30 years later in London air raids or upon the Rhine.

Nor, it can well be believed, is it yet cured.

A file of Scots Guardsmen were called out to reinforce the police, who had shotguns.

No 100. Sidney-street was peppered, and the two gangsters fired back down the street and wounded an inspector.

Then, according to Hugh

Martin who was there and who described the scene in his Churchill biography "Battle," it was decided to rush the house. Churchill, it was later stated, had no part in this decision. He merely suggested that metal sheets should be found to protect the attackers.

Some people have read into this first glimpse of that Churchill baby, the tank.

Fire Brigade

BUT it is far more likely that Churchill at that time was looking back into history and not forward. After all, shields were ancient military sense.

Before the shields could be found the besieged house caught fire. And up dashed the London Fire Brigade for what was almost a comedy turn.

These gallant men knew nothing about the whys and wherefores of a desperate situation. All they knew was that a house was on fire and it their job to put it out. This, they indicated, they intended to do despite blast and bullet, police or Peter the Painter.

Churchill, who had slowly realised that his love of action had led him into a strange and difficult path for one of His Majesty's chief Ministers, then gave the full weight of his authority to an order: the Fire Brigade were to stand by but not enter the house.

A police inspector strode down the street. The Home Secretary followed him. A sergeant followed both, carrying a shot gun at the ready.

There was no more defiant shooting. So the Fire Brigade were allowed to set to work. They found two charred bodies.

Unconventional

THIS unconventional action laid Churchill open to attack more by his political enemies than by the gangsters. Some withering fire was brought to bear on him in the House and in the country.

But it was so typical of the man and his character that his action just had to be accepted. It was not to be the last time he would leave a desk to enjoy an action.

When—as recorded by biographer Guerilla—another Parliamentarian who had been abroad burst into his room at the Home Office and indignantly asked, "What the hell have you been doing now, Winston?" the unrepentant Home Secretary looked up with a grin and said "Now don't be cross. It was such fun."

But over in the chancelleries of Europe, in the dockyards of Kiel and Hamburg, across the windy, dusty heaths of Germany where marched the Kaiser's grey hordes an uneasy spirit brooded, bent on hatching such chicks as would roost in many a strange barn, and crow on the dunghill they had made of Europe and spread over civilised nations the dark and menacing shadow of a German eagle's wings.

This evil spirit in this year of the Sidney-street Siege was to reach out and drag Churchill again from his desk to send him, chilled by its embrace, into battles in comparison with which the fun of Sidney-street was but a whiff of grapeshot.

Who is to say that this boyish zest for danger of which his behaviour in Sidney-street was just another example was not an asset as great as his administrative ability when events marched, twice in his career towards a thunderous climax—and the man matched himself to the hour and proved equal to it.

Until in 1911 the Kaiser sent a gunboat to North Africa and, in Churchill's words, the alarm bells throughout Europe began immediately to quiver, there is little indication that he, any more than his Cabinet colleagues, seriously pictured Britain at war with Germany. This German gunboat was a threat which was regarded

almost as a declaration of war against France, which had just made Morocco her protectorate, keeping Germany out of the Mediterranean.

Still A Sceptic

"I WAS still a sceptic about the danger of the European situation, and not convinced by the Admiralty case," he admitted, explaining his 1909 attitude to more Dreadnoughts when he pressed for economy. He had been twice the Kaiser's guest. Standing beside him he had watched unrivalled German troops on manoeuvres. But he was still not convinced.

His host's gesture in sending a gunboat, closely followed by a speech by Lloyd George (in the Boer war notoriously pacifist but who now made clear that he would not shirk war if Germany wanted it) did more than clarify the issue to the world.

It set the young war horse, Churchill, prancing to the guns, nostrils agape for the smell of powder.

This was something he knew a lot about. Eleven years might have passed since Spion Kop, thirteen since Omdurman, but he was still a fighting man, scion of Marlborough and knowledgeable about the movements of men and guns.

Memoranda

AS Home Secretary service matters were hardly his pigeon, but this did not deter him from sending the Committee of Imperial Defence one of those memoranda signed WSC which were to become famous in two wars, chits from history's loose-leaf notebook.

This memorandum, an appreciation of the opening stages of a war in which Germany and Austria would attack Britain, France and Russia, was written exactly three years before the 1914-18 war broke out.

His Forecast

IN it he forecast, giving numbers of men and reasons, that on the 20th day of mobilisation France's armies would have been driven back from the Meuse and would be retreating on Paris; that by the 40th day Germany would be fully extended and ripe for the counter-stroke.

"Ridiculous and fantastic," sneered the War Office.

But history proved him only a matter of hours out. By the 21st day the French were in full retreat; the battle of the Marne which stopped Germany dead in her tracks happened on the 41st day.

As Home Secretary the field of his usefulness in a possible war was obviously limited.

First Lord

ONE day in the autumn of 1911 the Prime Minister, Mr Asquith, had just finished a round of golf with him in Scotland. Then, in the gentle Asquith manner, he asked if he would become First Lord of the Admiralty.

"Indeed I would," said Churchill.

He was 36. The old soldier had become a sailor. The hour was to have its man.

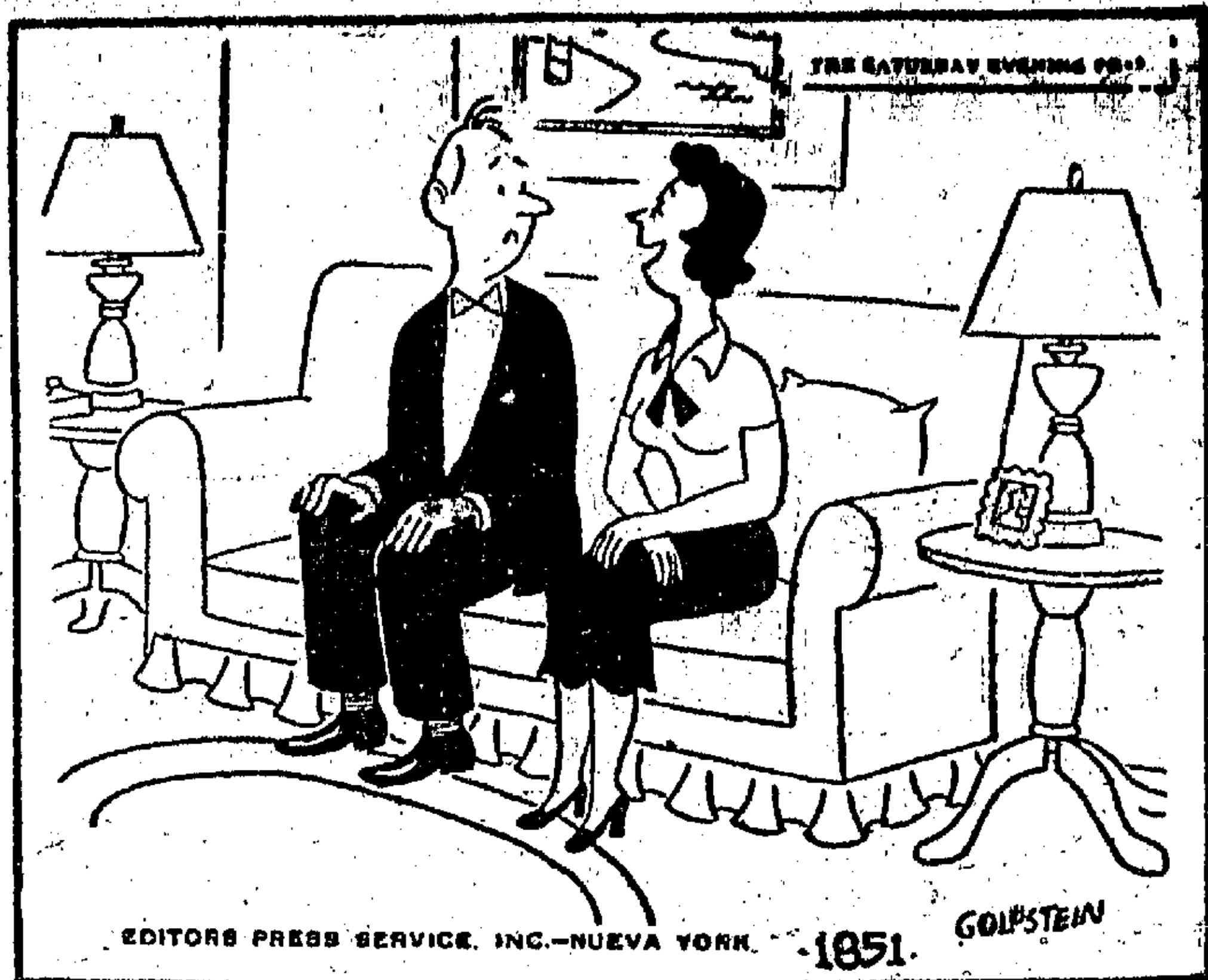
This conversation, so fateful for the future of Britain, took place by the Firth of Forth.

Seven years later these cold grey waters were to stir beneath a weight of proud ships humbly making their surrender—the German High Seas Fleet which in four years never dared to stand and fight the Navy Churchill prepared for his country.

Some of the quotations used in this and subsequent chapters of "The Churchill Story" have been taken from the most authoritative source—Mr Churchill's "The World Crisis" in which he dealt with the 1914-18 war and the events which preceded it.

"The World Crisis," like "My Early Life," from which extracts have been quoted in previous chapters, is published by the well-known firm of Odhams Press Ltd.

MORE TOMORROW



"You're too modest, Herbert. Thirty-five dollars a week is a wonderful salary, considering your ability."

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Commonwealth Is World's Largest Trading Area

London, Dec. 27.

An official summary of world trade showed the Commonwealth to be the world's largest trading area, with a marked increase in proportion of world exports over pre-war levels.

Official percentages of exports and imports of world trade for the years 1938 and 1949 showed:

World Exports:	1938	1949
Commonwealth	23	29
United States	14	21
Europe	37	28
World Imports:	1938	1949
Commonwealth	33	32
United States	9	12
Europe	38	34

—United Press.

IRAN TRIES TO RAISE OIL PRICE

London, Dec. 27.

Iran, Russia's southern neighbour and one of the main keys to the Middle East, confronted Western diplomats on Wednesday with yet another puzzle in the overall East-West struggle.

Faced with both Russian pressure and Western oil offers, Iran is apparently raising her price in a brisk bidding. The latest move has been to reject as insufficient a British offer of £35,000,000 for a supplementary agreement with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

Western diplomats noted that this action followed intensive wooing by the Soviets of this vital strategic area, and intensified Russian efforts for co-operation with Iran in economic as well as political fields.—United Press.

Danish Plan To Stop Inflation

Four financial Bills were tabled in the Danish Lower House providing for (1) Authority to float State loans for Kr.150m., (2) Compulsory savings to bring in Kr.170m. (3) A Supplementary tax to be imposed on individuals who have only themselves to support, and (4) A super income tax to be based on a comparison between average incomes in 1947 and 1948 and income in 1950.

A series of indirect taxes to provide Kr.300m. yearly was rushed through Parliament.

The Danish Finance Minister also hoped to cut Government expenditure by Kr.100m. during 1951.

Together these measures are designed to fight inflation and reduce Denmark's foreign currency deficit (estimated at Kr.660m. not covered by E.R.P. this year and Kr.800m. next year) by reducing consumption by some Kr.600m. yearly.

Japanese Wool Output Planning

Japan's wool manufacturers have drafted a plan to produce some 62m. lbs of goods between October, 1950, and September, 1951, according to a statement by the Woollen Spinning and Weaving Association of India, reported by the International Wool Secretariat.

To carry out this plan, the Indian Association estimates Japan's raw wool requirements for the coming year at 296,000 bales, against 230,000 bales for the current year.

It is understood that Japanese spinners and weavers drew up the plan at the request of the Industrial Rationalisation Council, which must give its approval. The manufacturers' group believes the increased imports of raw wool will result in about a 10 per cent reduction of production costs through an increased rate of operation.

Of the 62m. lbs planned, the Indian Association estimates that 12.5m. lbs will be for exports, 4,194,000 lbs for industrial materials and 45,306,000 lbs for domestic consumption.

Trade Experts' Conference

London, Dec. 27.

Commercial Counsellors and advisers from Indian Embassies in Western Europe met in London today.

Under the instructions of the Ministry of Commerce in New Delhi, they are holding a three-day conference to discuss various problems affecting Indian trade in their respective territories and other subjects.—Reuter.

ROLE OF CHINESE IN KOREA

Peking's Direct Control Of All War Front Operations

General MacArthur's Report To The United Nations

Lake Success, Dec. 27.

General Douglas MacArthur said today that the Chinese Communists had apparently taken over direct responsibility for the whole of the North Korean front and sent the Koreans to Manchuria for training.

In two reports to the United Nations covering November, General MacArthur said, "At present the only significant military power now confronting the United Nations' forces in Korea is Communist China."

NEW RULES FOR PLANE FLIGHTS

Washington, Dec. 27.

Airmen must give flight plans for planes entering or moving within certain zones over the United States under a Government order which went into effect today.

But the Civil Aeronautics Administration, which issued the regulation, said that enforcement would be delayed 15 days to give airmen time to familiarise themselves with the rules and the restricted areas.

The zones extend along the entire west coast, the northern half of the Atlantic coast, much of the Canadian and American borders and around atomic installations.

The regulation was aimed to help Air Force defence units identify planes in "sensitive areas."

Planes not properly cleared on flight plans are subject to identification in flight by Air Force fighters.

Violation of the rules carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a fine of \$10,000 and revocation of a pilot's licence.—Reuter.

Eisenhower Going To Paris

Paris, Dec. 27.

A French Foreign Office spokesman said today that General Dwight Eisenhower, the Atlantic Commander-in-Chief, will probably come to Europe about Jan. 15 but certainly before the end of January.

He will set up temporary headquarters in Paris and decide on a permanent headquarters after making contact with different members of the Atlantic Alliance.

General Eisenhower will assume the Supreme Command of the Atlantic Alliance, which will be divided into North, Central and South zonal commands instead of land, naval and air commands, he added.—Reuter.

Bid To Settle Strike Fails

Wellington, Dec. 27.

Renewed efforts to settle New Zealand's national railway strike broke down tonight after a brief meeting between the workers' representatives and Cabinet Ministers.

For more than three hours tonight a special meeting of the Cabinet had discussed the strike. Mr. Keith Holyoake, Acting Prime Minister, said afterwards that the Government was still prepared to facilitate conciliation but that it would not yield to intimidation.—Reuter.

"No pretext of minor support under the guise of volunteerism or other subterfuge now has the slightest validity. Irrefutable facts prove that the Chinese Communist regime has directed an invasion of Korea and an assault against the United Nations forces."

General MacArthur confirmed that United Nations planes attacking south of the Manchurian border had drawn anti-aircraft fire from guns on the Manchurian side and added, "This hostile action has been conducted with impunity as the result of the scrupulous efforts of the United Nations to maintain inviolate the border."

"The Communists practise this conscienceless derision of justice and peace from their cages of aggression protected solely by the barrier imposed by the democracies' desire to prevent an expansion of the arena of conflict."

Both reports referred to the menace of guerilla operations behind the United Nations' lines. The guerilla forces were estimated at from 30,000 to 35,000, and it was said that there was evidence that their activities were controlled by the Communist High Command.

General MacArthur estimated that during the period under review almost a third of the United Nations' troops in Korea were employed against the guerillas to protect supply lines and vital centres.

One report estimated that complete, organised Chinese Communist units, totalling more than five Chinese Communist armies with a strength of approximately 250,000 had already crossed into North Korea and attacked United Nations forces.

General MacArthur reported that about 35,000 people, mostly non-combatants, were believed to have been victims of "unbelievable atrocities" by North Koreans.

In his second report General MacArthur said that there had been a decrease in war crimes and suggested that the Communists had possibly been influenced by the threat of post-war punishment.—Reuter.

OVER 400,000 REDS

Tokyo, Dec. 27.

General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters today estimated that 444,406 Chinese Communist and North Korean troops are in Korea.

The total Communist forces in Korea and Manchuria, or en route, were estimated at 1,350,406. The aggregate North Korean Army strength was given as 167,203 and the aggregate Chinese Communist strength in North Korea was given as 277,173.

The dispositions of the enemy troops outlined in the communiqué were put at 171,117 facing the United Nations Eighth Army along the 38th Parallel, the communiqué said.

Recent indications pointed to a build-up of the North Korean forces. Eleven re-constituted North Korean divisions had reappeared in the last 12 days.

Twenty-two of the identified 26 North Korean units were infantry divisions, one an armoured division and three brigades.

The communiqué said that reports were received that there were 130,000 North Korean troops undergoing training in Manchuria in late November.

"With the manpower pool that is currently available to the North Korean Army, it is reasonable to assume that the enemy has the capability of placing several additional North Korean divisions in the field in the very near future," the communiqué added.—Reuter.

NEW COMMANDER

Seoul, Dec. 27.

Lieutenant General Matthew B. Ridgway, the new American Eighth Army Commander, flew into Seoul today and set off immediately to visit front line units, where he conferred with his Corps and divisional commanders.

He also made a personal call on the South Korean President, Dr Syngman Rhee.—Reuter.

10TH CORPS' ROLE

Eusak, Dec. 27.

The United States 10th Corps, which was recently evacuated from North-East Korea, has reverted to the operational control of the Eighth Army, an Army spokesman announced tonight.

"You may announce that the 10th Corps has ceased to function as an independent unit. It has reverted to the operational control of the United States Eighth Army, effective today (Wednesday)," the spokesman added.

No information as to the Corps' future role was disclosed.—Reuter.

AIR FORCE GUARDING NEW YORK

Washington, Dec. 27.

The Air Force announced that its first operational unit of all-weather jet fighters was now standing 24-hour guard over New York and adjacent critical areas of the industrial East.

The watch is being maintained by the 52nd Fighter All-weather wing stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey, which has been equipped with new Lockheed F-94 craft.

The fast-climbing, radar-equipped jet plane is designed to intercept enemy bombers in good weather or bad, in daylight or darkness. It has a combat ceiling of about 45,000 feet and a speed of more than 600 miles an hour.

While the exact rate of climb is secret, the Air Force said squadrons of F-94s could engage bombers at high altitudes within a few minutes of an alarm being sounded.

Pilots and crews are on a 24-hour stand-by alert as have been many units of the Air Command since the Korean war began.—United Press.



Oh, what a lovely day! The sun is shining and the sea air of Camber Sands is so fresh it makes me feel energetic, says Joan Abercrombie, so let's have a game of baseball. Here Joan stands ready to bat.

OFFENSIVE IN TIBET HALTED

Shillong, Assam, Dec. 27.

The Chinese offensive in Tibet has been halted because of the heavy snowfall, according to an official spokesman of the North-East Frontier Agency which is administered by the Indian Government.

The spokesman added, however, that the propaganda war is still on. Chinese leaflets reaching Rima, a Tibetan township 18 miles from the Indian border, said that the Chinese were entering Tibet "to liberate Tibetans from American and British influences."

"There is nothing to show that Chinese troops are intended for any attack on India," the spokesman said. "But the Government of India are taking all precautions to guard the main paths from the north-east."

Chinese troops in Eastern Tibet were stationed at four points from 60 to 180 miles from Kasao, India's farthest outpost in the north-east, the spokesman said.—Reuter.

Empire Talks On SE Asia Defence

Bombay, Dec. 27.

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers will undoubtedly discuss South-East Asian defence problems in London next week, Mr Don Stephen Senanayake, the Prime Minister of Ceylon, said today.

Mr Senanayake was passing through Bombay on his way to London.

He told reporters that the conference would also discuss China's part in the Korean war.

Mr Senanayake was accompanied by his Defence Secretary, Sir Vaithianathan.—Reuter

British Forces To Come Under Eisenhower

London, Dec. 27.

British troops will be transferred to the Atlantic Pact Army, immediately General Dwight Eisenhower sets up his command, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said in London today.

He added that the British forces to be placed at General Eisenhower's disposal would include the British contingents in Germany, Austria and Trieste.

It was understood that the formal announcement would be made as soon as the constitutional procedure had been complied with.—Reuter.

Xmas Gifts Flown To Korea

Tokyo, Dec. 27.

Three tons of Christmas gifts from dependent wives in Japan were flown to Korea for men of the United States Army 24th Division, according to General MacArthur's Public Information Office.—Reuter.

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